

## 332nd ECES different missions, same goal

By Senior Airman **Chawntain Sloan**  
Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

It's 110 degrees and temperatures are steadily on the rise. Luckily, you're in the solace of your air-conditioned office – until the power goes out.

You put in a work order, but you're not the only office that is suffering from this side effect of the heat. That's why you are pleasantly surprised not even 15 minutes later when you feel the ice-cold breeze of relief just as a civil engineer troop pokes his head in to let you know the malfunction has been fixed.

Providing relief from the heat is just one of the many things Army and Air Force civil engineers are doing to make life more bearable for deployed service members, Department of Defense civilians and contract employees.

Two units providing that relief are the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, supporting the men and women stationed here and the 732nd ECES, Detachment 6, improving the quality of life for the service-members here.

Master Sgt. Brian Davis and his crew from the 332nd ECES structures shop spend their 12-hour days enduring hot and austere conditions to establish, repair and maintain the Air Force facilities here.

"Our job doesn't allow us to be in the shade or air conditioning," said Sergeant Davis, 332nd ECES structures shop superintendent. "We are fixing the outside of buildings, putting up tents or scraping paint off the hot asphalt (runway) or concrete (flightline)."

From the moment they arrived in theater in April, Sergeant Davis said his

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Photo by Senior Airman Chawntain Sloan

Fixing leaky roofs is just one of the many things that Senior Airman Timothy Carlson and the Airmen assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron do to make living conditions better for troops deployed here.

### Final checkpoint



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### Control of the skies



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### Uniform tips



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# Airmen help put J in 'Joint Hooah'

By Col. Tip "Spike" Wight  
332nd AEW vice commander

**"J-Hooah!"** -- I always respond when someone greets me with a "Hooah." You might wonder what that's all about and what does "J-Hooah" even mean? When I say "J-Hooah," I am saying in effect "Joint-Hooah." As you probably know, "Hooah" is a predominantly Army term that is reported to have at least 16 meanings, none of which are "no." Am I making fun of the Army or the Marines? Absolutely not. In fact, I couldn't be more impressed with the courage and dedication our Soldiers and Marines show every day when faced with the deadly threat all around us here in Iraq. Hence, to show my support of our fellow warriors, just as I would support them with joint fires or intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) from an F-16, I reply: "J-Hooah!"

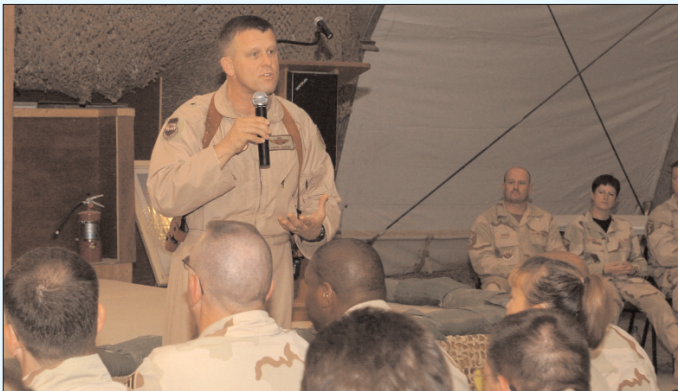
What it's all about is service identity. As the 58th anniversary of our birth as an independent service approaches, I'd like to explain why I feel it is important that while we continue to seamlessly fight alongside our fellow warriors and conduct true "purple" or joint operations, it is equally important that we retain our individual service identity-as advocates of Airpower.

Despite the fact that we now have many "T"-coded Airmen who are designated at "in-lieu of" forces and are performing Army missions, the fact remains there are unique capabilities, experiences and skill sets that Airmen bring to the fight. All services, to some extent, have an "air arm" and the Air Force clearly does things other than fly; however, what we are about first and foremost, is leveraging the capabilities of the third medium after land and sea air and space. From the beginning of our enlistment or commissioning in the Air

Force, we study and focus almost exclusively on airpower and its employment.

As you may note from personal experience, if you focus on one thing over the course of your career, you tend to become an expert. Indeed, no other service is an expert on many Air Force missions. One example is long-range airpower projection. No other service has the global strike capabilities provided by our B-1s, B-2s and B-52s. No other service has Air Mobility Command's global reach and force projection capabilities of their tanker and transport aircraft. Much like the slogan developed by some commercial packaging services, when it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight, the Air Force is the service of choice. No other service has the ISR capabilities or the unmatched command, control and communications capabilities brought about by combining our air and space platforms with the Air Operations Center weapons system. No other service flies stealth or low observable aircraft. Other services do have fighter and attack aircraft in various forms, but to a great extent, they all focus on one service-specific mission. Navy

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## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

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# Pit stop: Customs is last stop before leaving Balad

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

As many Airmen prepare for their departure from here, they should remember two key phrases. Donate it or ship it home.

Customs is everyone's last stop before they get on a plane and leave Balad so to make things go smoothly it's important to pack the essentials.

"We perform 100 percent inspections on every piece of luggage that comes through," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Earl McCreary, customs operations department head. "The more bags you bring the longer it will take you to get through customs."

As Air Expeditionary Force 5/6 comes to an end many people will be going through customs and should be selective when packing their bags.

"People can make the process faster by packing smarter," Petty Officer McCreary said. If something is not needed mail it home or donate it.

Going through customs here is similar to going through security at a regular airport but just more in depth.

"Our checks are a lot more intensive than a civilian airport," said Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Anita Harmon, customs boarding clearing agent. "Regular airports usually just use an x-ray machine; we personally check each bag."

Even though most of the prohibited items aren't seen on a regular basis there are a select few items that are found often.

"Lighters, double-sided knives, ammo and mixed pills are the prohibited items most often found," Petty Officer McCreary said. "You can have pills, but when they are mixed we really have no idea what they are. We aren't pharmacists."

It takes about two hours for a group 50 people to clear through customs.

"People usually have a pretty good attitude when going through (customs)," Petty Officer Harmon said. "After all they are going home."

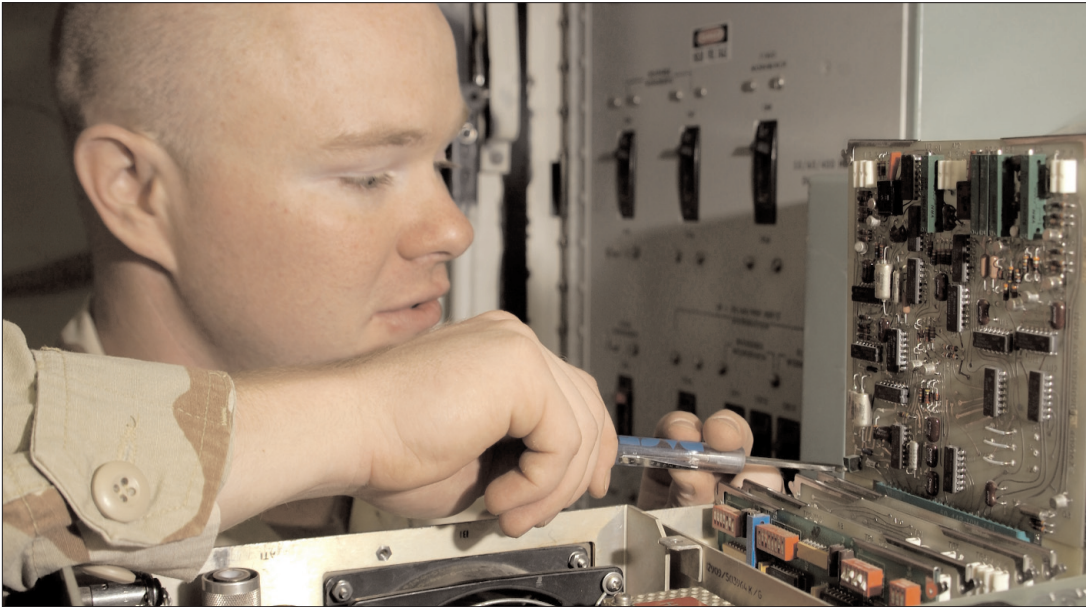
The 24-hour operation, which is made up of all Navy personnel has two goals.

"Our biggest mission is to make sure our troops get home safe and that no prohibited items get through," Petty Officer McCreary said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

**A customs agent briefs a group of Airmen before they enter the amnesty room. The amnesty room is the last chance departing service members will have to throw away any prohibited items before they enter customs. Every person leaving the country must clear through customs before they can get on a plane.**



**Airman 1st Class David Reed, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, aligns a UPX-23 interrogator set, which provides target identification.**

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Gish

# Kirkuk unit controls Iraqi skies

By Tech. Sgt. J. LaVoie  
506th AEG Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq -- The 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Detachment 1 provides instantaneous and continuous information superiority by providing commanders and pilots with a real-time view of northern Iraq's airspace.

Kirkuk's 727th EACS Det. 1 gives operators in Balad Air Base a key airspace picture, allowing them to communicate enemy targets and threats to pilots flying missions.

"The radar feed we provide is integral to fighters in the cockpits," said Capt. Donald Land, 727th EACS Det. 1 commander. "Our picture allows operators to contact friendly aircraft and relay the position of hostile forces and when they will be within weapons range. The end goal is to employ our weapons while the enemy is still looking for our aircraft."

Kirkuk's 727th EACS provides this capability for all of northern Iraq.

"We provide a picture for over 200 nautical miles, 360 degree rotation," said Airman 1st Class Derek Riley, 727th EACS Det. 1 radar maintenance.

That is 285,000 square miles of air superiority that can be picked up and moved at a moment's notice. If given a supply of water, diesel and meals ready to eat, the 727th EACS can take all of its assets and move to a new location in a matter of days. Because they bring with them everything from medics to security, they can move to a bare base location and begin providing an air picture immediately.

"We don't always deploy to a base," said Tech. Sgt. James Johnson, 727th EACS Det. 1 support. "We can go wherever they need us. We are completely independent."

This ability for rapid deployment makes them the most cost efficient choice for a bare base environment.

Captain Land said Airborne Warning and Control Systems aircraft cost more money because of fighter escort and refueler requirements that go along with it. Also, every second they are airborne is expensive in fuel costs alone.

A tower-based radar system is also expensive because it costs money to build the tower, and once it is built, it's permanent; meaning expensive equipment cannot be recovered if the Air Force decides to move the radar site. Kirkuk's 727th EACS provides an air picture with completely recoverable equipment. They are able relay that air picture to Balad, and then relay Balad's instructions to pilots via radio, providing a virtual presence at Kirkuk.

"If we had to move our operators with the equipment, it would create a bigger footprint," said Staff Sgt. Charles Sherer, 727th EACS Det. 1. "This allows them to control aircraft while they are in another part of the country."

Perhaps in the future, operators will control aircraft while in another part of the world.

"Eventually, we could theoretically have someone controlling aircraft from Aviano," said Staff Sgt. Pete Johnson, 727th EACS Det. 1 communications support flight NCOIC. "This would keep troops safe by putting less people in a combat zone."

Wherever the operators sit, 727th EACS Det. 1 will continue to provide an important role in air superiority.

"Our picture allows for command and control," said Staff Sgt. Alec McKinney, 727th EACS radar maintenance. "Our information gives the commanders the big picture. It allows them to manage the airspace."



## ECES, from Page 1

crew had enough back-logged job orders on the books to keep them busy the entire rotation.

"The first two months, the crew worked nonstop without a day off," Sergeant Davis said. "The motivation, drive and determination they have to get the job and mission done just amazed me. Sometimes, I thought that they were killing themselves, but it wasn't because I was asking them to; it's just because they knew the jobs needed to get done."

That motivation, drive and determination paid off. By the end of their first two months, Sergeant Davis' crew had completed more than 370 job orders, and they're still going strong.

"We will probably have 500 jobs done by the end of our rotation. That's our goal," Sergeant Davis said.

While Sergeant Davis and his crew keep busy at Balad during the day, Master Sgt. Robert Hager and the Airmen assigned to the 732nd ECES vertical shop, Detachment 6, work the night shift at Balad.

Sergeant Hager, 732nd ECES vertical shop superintendent, said his team's mission is slightly different.

"We're here to support the Army and make their lives more comfortable by getting them out of tents and into hardened shelters," Sergeant Hager said.

Upon their arrival in theater, Sergeant Hager and his crew immediately went to work doing just that. They were handed the task of building 30 new hard stand living facilities, and even though they are just responsible for the framing, he knew immediately that they had to call in reinforcements if they were going to finish the 3,000 square foot structures by the deadline of October.

"There is no way just 10 of us could take on that project ourselves and get it done in that timeframe, which is why we brought in the (507th Engineer Battalion)," Sergeant Hager said. "Like anything else, when you bring different people from different bases and backgrounds together, it's a bit of a rough start, but we have a real good team."

Despite the time-consuming project, Sergeant Hager and his Airmen haven't limited themselves to just making life bet-

ter for Soldiers in the immediate area.

"We are tasked to go outside the wire with the Army on convoys, and we also provide (engineering) support to other forward operating bases," Sergeant Hager said.

Even though they are supporting different missions, both civil engineering units are busy learning what it means to establish operations from the ground up.

"Manual labor is up 200 percent," Sergeant Davis said. "At the home station, our job is to maintain and repair a lot minor stuff. Here, we have done a lot of building – from storage shelters (for aircraft) to temper tents and tent floors. You name it; if it involves any sort of building or structure, we're doing it."

"It's good training for the younger troops," Sergeant Hager said. "They get to build instead of fix things. They don't get many opportunities like this at home station."

According to the Airmen on both teams, part of that training has been adjusting to and overcoming a variety of complications they aren't exposed to at their home stations.

"Mortar attacks are just another part of the job," said Senior Airman Luke Lucas,

332nd ECES structures journeyman. "Sometimes, you will be driving to a job and see a mortar hit the gravel a few feet away from you. After a while, you just get used to it. As long as no one is hurt, you can't let it affect you. You have to get the mission done."

Aside from acclimating to a new environment, the Airmen said they have also had to learn to do more with less.

"Sometimes, supplies aren't in the best condition," said Senior Airman Curtis Nyseth, 732nd ECES vertical journeyman. "Because of the heat, a lot of the wood is warped, but we sand it down and make it work."

At the rate both units are going, Sergeant Davis and Sergeant Hager agree their immediate goals are more than achievable, but the main goal extends well beyond finishing a certain number of jobs.

"As long as we can leave things a little better than we found them, then we've done our job," Sergeant Hager said.

"Our mentality is don't just do it for the here and now, do it for the future," Sergeant Davis said. "This team is definitely making it better for the future."

**Airmen 1st Class Justin Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron equipment and pavements flight, helps fellow Airmen assigned to the 332nd ECES structures flight make the quality of life better for those assigned here.**

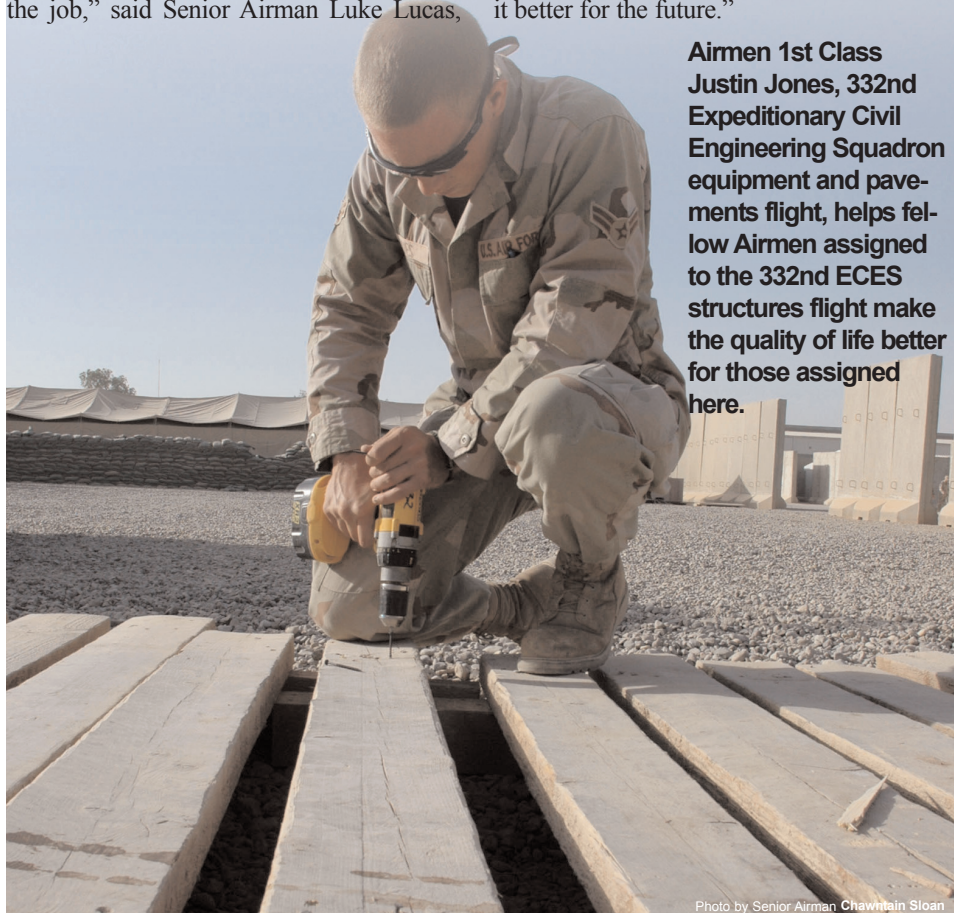


Photo by Senior Airman Chawntain Sloan

**J-HOOAH**, from Page 2

fighter aircraft have traditionally focused on protecting their floating airfields--the "fleet defense" mission. I have met tremendous Navy fighter pilots and have even flown in the back seat during a "carrier landing" or "trap." After experiencing that, I know why they focus a significant portion of their training on getting on and off the boat. They have to. It means instant life or death. However, Air Force fighter pilots don't have to spend that amount of training on merely getting to and from where we work. Hence, we tend to focus the majority of our training on tactical employment.

The Army has an incredible cadre of rotary-wing attack aviators and the Marines have skilled fighter pilots, but again--by the design and makeup of their service, their focus is almost exclusively on close support of their organic ground forces. By contrast, Air Force forces perform the complete spectrum of missions from gaining and maintaining air and space superiority, conducting long range strike or strategic attack missions and global power projection, conducting air interdiction, providing close air support, conducting ISR, suppressing enemy air defenses, acting as forward air controllers (airborne), and conducting and coordinating combat search and rescue. In fact, the Air Force is unique in that our primary role is to provide support in all of those roles for other services.

Because of our background, experience and training, we bring a different perspective to joint operations than do members of other services. If you read retired Col. Phil Meilinger's *"10 Propositions Regarding Airpower"* and *"More Propositions Regarding Airpower,"* you'll see because of our unique ability to move rapidly about the battle space and in many cases--rapidly about the globe, Airmen have a theater-wide perspective and the capability to

focus on many tactical engagements and operations nearly simultaneously. On the other hand, by necessity of their mission, our land and sea counterparts tend to focus predominantly on their "lanes" or the single battle affecting them at the time.

Having individual service perspectives isn't wrong, it's just different. Like the melting pot that is the United States, diversity is what makes us strong. It is a good thing to have a unique perspective. In fact, this was one of the major reasons that the Air Force was born as a separate service on Sept. 18, 1947. Our early leaders felt that airpower was being unnecessarily restricted by focusing solely on the close support of ground forces.

As you can see from the impressive list of capabilities that only the Air Force now offers and our unmatched record of combat success, it would appear that our founders were right. In fact, we have been so successful gaining and maintaining air and space superiority, that the last successful enemy air attack on friendly forces occurred during the Korean War! Moreover, in a complete surrender of air dominance, our most recent adversary elected to bury his aircraft in the sand rather than fight. I am not bashful about saying I'm proud to be an Airman and I strongly believe that we don't need to be more "Army-like" merely because in this conflict we are serving shoulder to shoulder with Soldiers.

On the one hand we need to maintain our unique service perspective while providing the world-class joint support that in many cases, only the Air Force can. On the other hand, I'll never look down my nose at any of my joint warrior brethren. They are true heroes, just as many Airmen are also true heroes every day. First and foremost, though, I am an Airman. Thus, when greeted with a "Hooah," in the tradition of Air Force joint excellence, I'll always respond with "J-Hooah!"



BALD AIR BASE

# UNIFORM TIPS

**This information can be found in 332nd AEW I 36-2903 Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, Section 4.2.**




**Right**




**Wrong**



# Geren: AF fighting three wars

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force is now fighting three "wars," said the service's senior-most civilian leader.

Those three wars are the war on terrorism, the effort to provide disaster relief in the United States and the push for reform of the Air Force acquisition process, said Pete Geren, acting Secretary of the Air Force, during the Air Force Association's 2005 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition here Sept. 12.

Mr. Geren said the Air Force is engaged in the war on terrorism 24 hours a day, but many Americans do not see the service's contributions to that fight.

"Our support for the war has been so dependable and successful, to the general public it is almost invisible," he said.

The acting secretary assured Airmen gathered at the conference that the Air Force is still engaged in that fight.

"Iraq and Afghanistan are seen by the public as Army operations now that the major combat is over," he said. "But the Air Force continues to play a vital role."

Mr. Geren said while fighting the war on terrorism, both terrorists and the Air Force have evolved in the way they do business.

One example includes the use of the F-16s as surveillance aircraft. He said Air National Guard units are using F-16s equipped with targeting pods to target and track enemy weapons and to even track enemy movements.

"In some cases, (they are) even spotlighting them with their laser designators, which, while invisible to the insurgents, are clear as day to Soldiers equipped with night-vision goggles," he said.

Also a sign of Air Force adaptability is Airmen moving supplies throughout Iraq.

Today, Airmen are running some of the supply convoys on the ground, a job traditionally done by the Army. He said there are as many as 2,500 Airmen in Iraq and Afghanistan filling traditional Army billets as drivers, security personnel, communications specialists and fuels technicians.

"That's the joint force in action," Mr. Geren said. "Each of those Airmen frees up a Soldier to fill Army-specific billets."

In the air, the Air Force is providing more airlift support with C-17 Globemaster III and C-130 Hercules aircraft to reduce the number of ground convoys needed, he said.

Airmen are also filling nontraditional roles outside of combat zones.

At home and abroad, the Air Force is committed to providing disaster relief, Mr. Geren said. Airmen flew about 1,300 sorties supporting disaster relief for victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

In the United States, he said, the Air Force is providing equivalent support to victims along the Gulf Coast. There are as many as 8,000 active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen working alongside other services and relief agencies to save lives and relieve suffering in the wake of the hurricane.

"Our expeditionary nature makes us quick to respond, and your Air Force - our

total force - (is) a critical part of that joint effort," Mr. Geren said.

Airmen working to support relief operations in the gulf region have conducted more than 5,000 rescues, treated more than 6,000 patients in New Orleans and evacuated more than 27,000 people to safety, he said.

Finally, the acting secretary discussed the Air Force's acquisition process.

During the past year, the service has been the subject of much scrutiny on Capitol Hill over its acquisition practices. In fact, one senior Air Force official received jail time as a result of inappropriate acquisition activities.

Mr. Geren said those issues have led the Air Force to look at new ways of conducting business.

"Shortcomings in the way we define and execute our acquisition programs, along with the shameful actions by one of our own, have left us more determined than ever to reform our acquisition process," he said.

Mr. Geren said some of the recent problems stem from efforts in the past to streamline the acquisition process by purchasing major systems commercially. Part of that effort also reduced oversight into purchasing.

"Doing so, rather than using the traditional acquisition process, meant we could get systems to the field faster," he said. "We are reducing the number of commercial purchases and are working with the office of the secretary of defense to update procedures for buying commercial items," he said. "Our biggest challenge is instilling greater discipline into the traditional acquisition process."

## Katrina assistance

The Department of Defense advises military members who wish to provide immediate assistance to Hurricane Katrina disaster relief, prior to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, to make cash donations directly to relief organizations. Two organizations recognized by President George W. Bush are the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. Federal Emergency Management Agency has a list of organizations that can be found at <http://www.fema.gov>.

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays

11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel,

7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. Morale, Welfare and Recreation Tent

Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays

10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays

1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

### Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conference room

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

## Meet your neighbor



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

### Airman Rodney Weaver

**Home Station:** Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

**Duty title:** 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron force protection escort

**Hobbies:** Playing chess, shooting pool and hiking

**How do you contribute to the mission?**

I help provide security to the base

**What is your favorite aspect of deployment?** My favorite aspect is participating in the Air Force mission in a combat environment.

**Besides your family, what do you miss back home?** Watching Pittsburgh Steeler's games and working on cars

## Know what this is?



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo of the vacant sign on a porta-potty was first identified by Staff Sgt. Michael Bacon, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing safety office.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - The Transporter 2  
6 p.m. - The Transporter 2  
9 p.m. - The Transporter 2

### Saturday, Sept. 17

3 p.m. - The Island  
6 p.m. - Fantastic Four  
9 p.m. - The Transporter 2

### Sunday, Sept. 18

3 p.m. - The Island  
6 p.m. - Rebound  
9 p.m. - Transporter 2

### Monday, Sept. 19

3 p.m. - Fantastic Four

6 p.m. - Transporter 2  
9 p.m. - The Island

### Tuesday, Sept. 20

3 p.m. - Transporter 2  
6 p.m. - Dark Water  
9 p.m. - The Island

### Wednesday, Sept. 21

3 p.m. - Fantastic Four  
6 p.m. - High Tension  
9 p.m. - Transporter 2

### Thursday, Sept. 22

3 p.m. - The Island  
6 p.m. - Transporter 2  
9 p.m. - Fantastic Four

